

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 120222
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 INSE-00 SIG-03
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:BA
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-----072931 111844Z /47

O R 111824Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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HONG KONG ALSO FOR INS DIDIR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

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SUBJECT: ACCELERATED HANDLING OF BOAT REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA
AND THAILAND

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 3603 (NOTAL), B. BANGKOK 12853,
C. SINGAPORE 1993 (NOTAL), D. BARNES/LOWMAN TELCON,
E. STATE 102333, F. STATE 111014

1. REFS A AND B PROVIDED SUGGESTIONS TO SPEED UP PROCESSING OF BOAT REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND TO TRY TO KEEP UP WITH ACCELERATED ARRIVALS WHICH TOTALED ABOUT 3,000 IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES IN APRIL, COMPARED TO EARLIER MONTHLY AVERAGE OF ABOUT 1,500. REF C PROVIDED PARALLEL SUGGESTIONS TO COPE WITH INCREASED FLOW OF BOAT REFUGEES. REF D PROPOSED THAT NEW ROUND OF INS INTERVIEWS OF LAND CAMP REFUGEES BEGIN IN MID-MAY.

2. TO SPEED UP PROCESSING OF BOAT REFUGEES AT OUR END, HA/ORM OFFICIALS HAVE ATTENDED VOLAG MEETINGS IN NEW YORK AT LEAST WEEKLY TO IMPRESS ON THEM NEED TO FIND SPONSORS RAPIDLY, PARTICULARLY FOR BOAT REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA AND THAILAND. IN LATEST ALLOCATION MAY 4 OF 200 CASES (700 PERSONS) WHICH ARRIVED PREVIOUS DAY IN NEW YORK BY REFUGEE COURIER, VOLAGS PROMISED TO FIND SPONSORS WITHIN TWO TO

THREE WEEKS. IN RETURN, HOWEVER, THEY ASKED THAT POSTS ENDEAVOR TO MOVE TO U.S. ASAP REFUGEES FOR WHOM THEY HAD PROVIDED, OR WOULD PROVIDE, SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES. THEY NOTED THAT SOME SPONSORS WERE STILL WAITING FOR REFUGEES WHOM THEY HAD AGREED TO SPONSOR OVER FOUR MONTHS AGO.

3. IN THIS REGARD, NOTE THAT WEEKLY REPORTS FOR MAY 5 SHOW MALAYSIA AND THAILAND RESPECTIVELY WITH 635 AND 519 BOAT REFUGEES IN COUNTRY ON WHOM ASSURANCES RECEIVED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAME WEEK, HOWEVER, ONLY 99 AND 59 BOAT REFUGEES DEPARTED FOR U.S. FROM MALAYSIA AND THAILAND RESPECTIVELY. WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN MOVING REFUGEES OUT OF CAMPS, ARRANGING MEDICALS, AND BOOKING TRANSPORTATION, BUT H8PE POSTS CAN EXERT BEST EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE DEPARTURES TO U.S. OF ASSURED BOAT REFUGEES. IF NECESSARY, SUGGEST ACTION ADDRESSEES WORK OUT WITH ICEM ARRANGEMENTS TO CHARTER AIRCRAFT, AS SUGGESTED PARA 8 REF A, AND INFORM DEPT IF THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN COST OF SUCH TRANSPORTATION FROM CURRENT ICEM NEGOTIATED FARES FOR REFUGEES ON SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. IF OTHER STEPS CAN BE TAKEN TO SPEED UP PROCESSING FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY OR RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED, POSTS ARE URGED TO INFORM DEPT OF SUCH PROPOSALS.

4. FURTHER TO SPEED UP PROCESSING, AS SUGGESTED IN TELCONS WITH BOTH KUALA LUMPUR AND BANGKOK, POSTS SHOULD MAIL ASAP TO ACVA BIODATA ON REFUGEES DEEMED LIKELY TO BE APPROVED BY INS, BUT NOTE ON EACH FORM THAT APPROVAL NOT YET RECEIVED. THEN WHEN INS APPROVES REFUGEES, POSTS SHOULD SEND PRIORITY CABLE THROUGH DEPT TO ACVA, GIVING M OR T NUMBERS OF APPROVED REFUGEES, NAMES OF PRINCIPAL

APPLICANTS, AND NUMBER IN EACH FAMILY, WHICH WILL ACTIVATE VOLAGS TO BEGIN SPONSORSHIP SEARCH. (IN CASE OF CAT I REFUGEES WITH RELATIVES IN U.S., SPONSORSHIP SEARCH MAY ACTUALLY PRECEDE CABLE NOTIFICATION OF INS APPROVAL.) THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE APPROXIMATELY TWO-WEEK CURRENT DELAY WHEN BIODATA MAILED TO ACVA AFTER INS APPROVALS ARE GIVEN. POSTS ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED TO SEND BIODATA TO ACVA BY COURIER OR BY CABLE IF THIS WOULD EXPEDITE PROCESSING.

5. ALSO REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES AND INS DIDIR COORDINATE TO COMPLETE INS APPROVAL OF ALL REFUGEES UP TO QUOTAS OF 2,500 A NUMBERS FOR MALAYSIA AND 589 FOR THAILAND ALLOCATED BY DEPT AND INS/CO IN REF E. WE HOPE TO GET NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED SOONEST AND SEE NO NEED TO STRING OUT APPROVALS UNDER IPP-78 WHILE BOAT REFUGEES CONTINUE TO PILE UP.

6. INS/CO DOES NOT CONCUR WITH PROPOSAL TO BEGIN NEW ROUND OF INS INTERVIEWS OF LAND CAMP REFUGEES BEFORE NEW 25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM IS FINALLY AUTHORIZED. INS DIDIR SHOULD, HOWEVER, PREPARE TO SEND INS OFFICERS TO THAILAND TO BEGIN LAND CAMP INTERVIEWS AS SOON AS YOU ARE INFORMED THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS AUTHORIZED 25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS AS REQUIRED WITH CONGRESS. INITIALLY, HOWEVER, INS APPROVALS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ONLY 3,500 BEST QUALIFIED CAT I, II, AND III REFUGEES WHO WERE QUALIFIED FOR IPP-77 BUT WERE NOT INCLUDED IN PROGRAM BECAUSE NUMBERS EXHAUSTED. AT THIS EARLY STAGE WE MUST HOLD TO THIS NUMERICAL LIMIT, BUT WILL NOTIFY POST IF ADDITIONAL NUMBERS CAN BE ASSIGNED.

7. RE POST SUGGESTIONS TO REOPEN REFUGEE CAMP IN U.S., WE WILL KEEP UNDER ADVISEMENT, BUT BELIEVE THIS MIGHT WELL JEOPARDIZE PRESENT GENERAL PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF ONGOING U.S. PAROLE PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

8. RE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS PARA 6 REF B, WE PLAN AS SOON AS 25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM IS AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH UNHCR WITH SEVERAL PROPOSALS INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED IN SUB-PARAS A, B, AND G. THESE REFER TO STATIONING OF UNHCR REP IN EACH MAJOR BOAT CAMP, GETTING UNHCR TO INSTITUTE PROCESSING CHECKLIST LIKE BLUE CARD SYSTEM IN MALAYSIA, AND OPENING OF MACAU TRANSIT CENTER. WE ALSO PLAN AT THAT TIME TO OFFER TO ALLOT SOME NUMBERS TO UNHCR IF OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA ALSO ALLOT SOME SO THAT UNHCR CAN PROVIDE APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES IN ORDER TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPEN TEMPORARY HOLDING FACILITY IN SINGAPORE. RE SUGGESTION SUB-PARA D, INS IS ALREADY PLANNING TO STATION OFFICER IN BANGKOK AS THE VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED ON HIS RECENT VISIT.

9. REQUEST INS DIDIR COMMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS SUB-PARA C TO CONDUCT SIMULTANEOUS IMMIGRATION INTERVIEWS WITH AUSTRALIANS. IS THIS FEASIBLE? HOW WOULD THIRD COUNTRY PROGRAMS OTHER THAN AUSTRALIAN BE ACCOMMODATED?

10. SIMILARLY, WE WISH TO PURSUE RECOMMENDATION SUB-PARA E TO CONDUCT MEDICALS IN CAMPS RATHER THAN IN CAPITALS. AUSTRALIANS IN MEETINGS HERE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF UNHCR OR ICEM COORDINATING MEDICALS WITH U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRY PROGRAMS, AS NOTED PARA 7A REF F. COULD ICEM AND/OR RED CRESCENT ESTABLISH SUFFICIENT FACILITIES ON TENGGAH AND BASAR ISLANDS, AND PERHAPS OTHER POINTS, TO PERFORM THOSE TESTS THAT MEET REQUIREMENTS OF AT LEAST

U.S., AUSTRALIA, AND CANADA? MATTER SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AMONG REFOFFS/IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, ICEM, RED CRESCENT, AND UNHCR REPS, AND COST ESTIMATES FOR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL SHOULD BE CABLED TO DEPT.

11. FINALLY, REQUEST BANGKOK ELABORATE ON RECOMMENDATION PARA 6H OF REF B TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL ICEM UNIT TO EXPEDITE DEPARTURES. HOW WOULD THIS WORK AND WHAT WOULD IT COST?

12. APPRECIATE ALL PREVIOUS POST EFFORTS TO EXPEDITE PROCESSING OF BOAT REFUGEES, AND HOPE FURTHER STEPS OUTLINED ABOVE WILL HELP EVEN MORE. EXPECT SHEPARD LOWMAN, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF REFUGEE AFFAIRS, AND JERE BROH-KAHN, IPP UNIT CHIEF, WILL BE VISITING AREA SHORTLY FOR FURTHER COORDINATION WITH POSTS ON THESE AND RELATED MATTERS. VANCE

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